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IN THE SEQUENCE LISTING:

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Between page 27 and 28 of the present specification, please insert the attached Sequence Listing having page numbers 27-29. Please renumber pages 27 to 33 of the present specification as pages 30 to 36.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-34.

Please add the following claims:

35. An isolated polynucleotide which corresponds to at least 70% of the SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary strand.

36. An isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 35, which corresponds to at least 90% of the SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary strand.

37. An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least the SEQ ID NO:1, its complementary strand, or a portion thereof having more than 15 nucleotides able to identify or reconstitute SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary strand.

38. An isolated peptide encoded by an isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 35.

39. An isolated peptide according to Claim 38, comprising the peptide listed as SEQ ID NO:2 or agonists of a receptor or receptors of said peptide.

40. An isolated peptide according to Claim 39, which is a ligand of the ORL₁ receptor.

41. An isolated peptide according to Claim 38, comprising the peptide listed as SEQ ID NO:3 or agonists of a receptor or receptors of said peptide.

42. An isolated peptide according to Claim 38, comprising the peptide listed as SEQ ID NO:4 or agonists of a receptor or receptors of said peptide.

43. An inhibitor directed against an isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 35, an isolated peptide encoded by said isolated polynucleotide, or a receptor or receptors of said isolated peptide.

44. An inhibitor according to Claim 43, which is a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody, or a portion thereof, directed against said isolated peptide or a receptor or receptors of said isolated peptide.

45. An inhibitor according to Claim 43, which is an antigens oligonucleotide which has a sequence capable of specifically binding to said isolated polynucleotide to prevent its transcription and/or its translation.

46. An inhibitor according to Claim 43, which is an antagonist to a receptor of said isolated peptide.

47. A vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 35.

48. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an element selected from the group consisting of an isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 35, an isolated peptide encoded by said isolated polynucleotide, an inhibitor directed against said isolated polynucleotide,

and a vector comprising said isolated polynucleotide, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

49. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 48, for the treatment and/or the prevention of a disease related to at least one function or behavior selected from the group consisting of hyperalgesia, neuroendocrine secretion, stress, locomotor activity, anxiety, instinctive behavior, decreasing of learning, memory, curiosity, attention, and sensory perception.

50. A transgenic non-human animal, comprising an isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 35.

51. A method for recovering an antagonist or an agonist of ^{said} an isolated peptide (according to the Claim 38, said antagonist or said agonist being capable of specifically binding to a receptor present on a cell surface, said method comprising the steps of:

preparing a cell extract from cells comprising a vector adapted for expression in said cells, said vector comprising a polynucleotide which expresses said receptor on the cells' surface;

isolating a membrane fraction from said cell extract;

incubating compounds present within said membrane fraction under conditions permitting a peptide known to bind specifically to said receptor;

detecting the presence of compounds, if any, bound to said receptor; and

recovering said bound compounds as the antagonist or the agonist.

52. A method for recovering an antagonist or an agonist of ^{said} ~~an~~ isolated peptide according to the Claim 38, said antagonist or said agonist being capable of specifically binding to a receptor present on a surface of cells to prevent said isolated peptide from activating said receptor, said method comprising the steps of:

contacting a cell comprising a vector adapted for expression in said cell, with a compound under conditions permitting measuring a functional response, said vector comprising a polynucleotide which expresses said receptor on the cell's surface;

determining whether the compound prevents said isolated peptide to activate said receptor; and

recovering the compound as the antagonist or the agonist if said compound does not activate said receptor.

53. An antagonist or an agonist of an isolated peptide according to the Claim 38, said antagonist or said agonist being capable of specifically binding to a receptor present on a cell surface, said antagonist or said agonist being obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

preparing a cell extract from cells comprising a vector adapted for expression in said cells, said vector comprising a polynucleotide which expresses said receptor on the cells' surface;

isolating a membrane fraction from said cell extract;

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incubating compounds present within said membrane fraction under conditions permitting a peptide known to bind specifically to said receptor; detecting the presence of compounds, if any, bound to said receptor; and recovering said bound compounds as the antagonist or the agonist.

54. An antagonist or an agonist of an isolated peptide according to the Claim 38, said antagonist or said agonist being capable of specifically binding to an receptor present on a surface of cells to prevent said isolated peptide from activating said receptor, said antagonist or said agonist being obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

contacting a cell comprising a vector adapted for expression in said cell, with a compound under conditions permitting measuring a functional response, said vector comprising a polynucleotide which expresses said receptor on the cell's surface;

determining whether the compound prevents said isolated peptide to activate said receptor; and

recovering the compound as the antagonist or the agonist if said compound does not activate said receptor.

55. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antagonist or an agonist according to Claim 53, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

56. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antagonist or an agonist according to Claim 54, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.